

Track 2 Field Talk Session

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Key Takeaways for Adolescent Thriving

❖ QUESTION 1: What is the most significant takeaway you learned, and how will you apply it to your program?

- IRBs: For several grantees it has been difficult to get IRBs in place, especially with schools. Some are exempt due to implementation evaluations.
- With the dramatic increase in the suicide rate, there is an increased need to incorporate suicide prevention and awareness inside our groups.
 - Community service learning, based on the interest of the youth involved, is one way to tie in some of those pieces on suicide prevention.

Social Emotional Learning

- It is important to incorporate Social Emotional Learning Standards into teaching to help empower students. The Teen Outreach program, which is in use in some states, incorporates some of these standards and is an inclusive, holistic program.
- Teaching about STDs from a Social Emotional Learning perspective helps youth to “feel” something to make a lasting impression and promote behavior change. Educators are trained in social intelligence and social emotional learning.

Classroom Facilitation

- To ensure we cover all A-F topics and curriculum content, share less of your personal story, limit sidebar conversations by rewarding those who are paying attention, and ask for more time in the schools.
- Provide handouts for youth to look back on after class.
- Incentivize participation during workshops with \$5 gift cards and/or restaurant gift cards. Consider youth interests when giving incentives.

❖ **QUESTION 2: What innovative social media campaigns have you implemented or seen used in SRAE programming?**

- Short movies created by and for youth by the Friends4Friends program
- Virtual reality trailers for career exploration and development will roll out this year
- Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram were some social media platforms being used to reach youth.
 - TikTok videos – having youth do those and send them in and then using some of the videos during class time
- Podcast with student leadership group—parameters would be in place and there would be adult oversight and guidance. This is another way *to get out those messages and build those relationships*.
- Video demonstration to promote programming and get schools to open the door
 - Check with the associated curriculum company to ensure that video demonstrations are allowed with their copyright standards.
 - One partner created a 2-minute YouTube video to promote the program to school administrators and teachers, without demonstrating content.
- Incentivize involvement in social media campaigns when a student signs up for workshops, likes a post, follows a page, or shares a post.
- The Instagram page of We Think Twice, with the colorful pages and youth-friendly content, was a great example of how to engage youth through social media.